

The excuse for this conduct is that the authorizing committees have simply failed to attend to their duties of keeping authorizations current, including for a number of critical functions, and so the Appropriations Committee takes it upon itself to fund them.

What's to prevent this? The House rules allow any Member the right to raise a point of order against any unauthorized expenditure, but this right is stripped from Members every time an appropriations bill is sent to the House floor, making this rule meaningless and unenforceable.

It has now reached the point that more than one-third of the discretionary spending approved by the House is for purposes not authorized by law. This fact makes a mockery of the leadership's effort to restore regular order to the appropriations process.

I urge the Speaker of the House to direct the authorizing committees to bring the authorizations current for every program within their respective jurisdictions and to give them a year to do so. If, after a full year, the authorizing committees don't believe the programs are worth the time to review, then maybe that's just nature's way of warning us that they're also not worth the money that we continue to shovel at them.

Once the committees have had that year to review these unauthorized programs and to either renew them, reform them, or let them die, I urge the House to restore the right of every Member to challenge unauthorized appropriations on the floor as our rules clearly envision and provide.

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Americans elected a House Republican majority with one clear mandate: stop wasting our money. To be worthy of that trust, we can't allow hundreds of billions of dollars to bypass the minimal congressional review that the authorizing process provides.

#### EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN CALIFORNIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCNERNEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to a recent University of California at Davis study on some effects that climate change will have in California. This report looks at habitat and temperature sensitivity for fish species within the State.

California has a diverse and robust ecosystem, as well as the largest estuary in the Western Hemisphere, namely the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The delta and its tributaries are home to an amazing variety of native species that must be protected. The study found that, of 121 native fish species in California, more than 80 percent will be critically endangered as a result of climate change. At the same time, non-

native or invasive species will survive at a much higher rate.

We must take action now to address climate change, which is starting to affect every aspect of our daily lives, including our water quality, flood risk, more severe weather—including hurricanes, tornadoes, and droughts—and the extinction of native species. The destruction posed by climate change to the natural resources we depend on for our daily sustenance is too great.

Global warming is here. It's dangerous, and we need to take action now. The longer we wait, the more difficult and costly the fixes will be, and the more our fellow human beings across the world will suffer.

#### STOP GOVERNMENT ABUSE OF TAXPAYER INFORMATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of this recent IRS scandal, President Obama made this promise to the American people: I'll do everything in my power to make sure nothing like this happens again.

Everything? But what about ObamaCare? In spite of the culture of corruption and coverup at the IRS, the Obama administration is moving full steam ahead with ObamaCare, a law that gives unprecedented new access and powers to unelected government bureaucrats at the IRS and several other major government agencies.

Consider the potential for abuse with ObamaCare's mystery Federal data services hub, the largest personal information database the government has ever attempted, according to The Wall Street Journal. This data hub will function like a Web portal where your personal health insurance, tax and financial information, criminal background, and immigration status will be shared and transmitted between agencies, including the IRS, HHS, DOJ, DHS, and SSA.

While far too many questions still remain about who will have access to what information in the hub, we do know that a woman in charge of the IRS' eight newly created Obama enforcement offices is none other than Sarah Hall Ingram, the former commissioner of the office responsible for tax-exempt organizations during the targeted IRS scandal.

Will the Americans who do not purchase government-approved insurance soon find themselves targeted and harassed through IRS audits? Right now, only time will tell.

With so much personal information going in and out of the hub likely privy to both government employees and contractors, many of whom will have discretion over health care coverage and tax penalties, the potential for abuses is staggering. That's why I have introduced H.R. 2022, the Stopping Government Abuse of Taxpayer Information Act. My bill would require not

only the IRS but all government agencies with access to ObamaCare's Federal data services hub to present to Congress—under the penalty of perjury—certification that the American people's personal information has not and will not be used for targeting any individual or group based on their beliefs.

With full implementation of ObamaCare only months away, the IRS scandal underscores why we must not only continue fighting to repeal the health care law, but we also have the responsibility to demand safeguards, accountability, and oversight measures to be put in place to shield Americans from further targeting and misuse of their personal information.

The question is: Will the President honor his promise to the American people to do everything in his power to ensure that nothing like the IRS scandal happens again?

Mr. President, join me in supporting my bill, H.R. 2022, to safeguard the American people's most personal information.

#### MAKING COLLEGE AFFORDABLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, ensuring students can afford college is vital to ensuring our Nation's competitiveness in a global economy. A majority of new jobs in the next decade will require a college degree, which makes higher education an economic necessity for most Americans. Ensuring all students have the opportunity to go to college will strengthen our economy, grow our middle class, and invest in our future.

Yet, education costs continue to rise year after year, pricing some people out of an education. College costs have dramatically increased. Over the last decade, the cost of attending a 4-year institution has increased 66 percent over the rate of inflation. For 2-year institutions, tuition and fees for students have increased 47 percent beyond the rate of inflation. According to the College Board, the annual cost of attending an in-State public college is now well over \$22,000 a year. These rapidly rising costs are pricing hardworking families and students out of an education.

Congress can—and must—act to ensure college remains affordable for hardworking families, and there are things that we can do to do just that.

First, Congress must act immediately to prevent student loan interest rates from doubling on July 1. I've supported the Student Loan Relief Act, which would extend the current student loan interest rate, 3.4 percent, until 2015. Unfortunately, the Republican plan passed last week, the Making College More Expensive Act, would put college out of reach for many of my constituents and students across this country. I opposed the Republican plan, which would create a variable